Message Text

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UNCLAS GENEVA 08078

PASS US CUSTOMS, MARGARET O'ROURKE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD ECE

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ECE TASK TEAM ON EXCHANGE OF TRADE

DATA BY COMPUTERIZED TRANSMISSION

- 1. TASK TEAM 1.2 OF THE WORKING PARTY ON FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROCEDURES OF THE ECE COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE MET IN GENEVA ON MAY 22-23. THE SPECIFIC AREA OF INTEREST OF THIS TASK TEAM IS THE DIRECT EXCHANGE OF TRADE DATA USING COMPUTERIZED TRANSMISSION.
- 2. THE TEAM IS CHAIRED BY MR. D. TRAFFORD OF THE UK AND INCLUDES SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, FINLAND, POLAND, AUSTRALIA, ROMANIA, GDR, FRG, UK AND THE US. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL NGOS ARE REPRESENTED. THE BRITISH DELEGATION PROPOSED A SYSTEM OF SYNTAX RULES FOR TRADE DATA INTERCHANGE WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY SITPRO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. A TEST OF THESE SYNTAX RULES WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING IN ENGLAND AND A LARGE SHIPPING COMPANY IN WEST GERMANY. BOTH REPORTED THAT THE TEST WAS SUCCESSFUL AND EMPHASIZED THE URGENT NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS BEFORE COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES ALL DEVELOP DIVERGENT UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLUTIONS. THE DELEGATIONS FROM FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, UK AND IATA (INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION) REPORTED THEIR RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR STANDARD SYNTAX RULES FOR DATA INTERCHANGE.

3. THE US DELEGATION PRESENTED A PAPER EXPLAINING OUR SYSTEM OF ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE DEVELOPED BY THE

TRANSPORTATION DATA COORDINATING COMMITTEE UNDER CONTRACT TO THE DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION. THE US DELEGATE STATED THAT WE COULD NOT ENDORSE THE SITPRO SYNTAX RULES, BUT ENCOURAGED ALL PARTIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A STANDARD INCORPORATING THE BEST FEATURES OF ALL THE SYSTEMS NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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